The modernisation and expansion of Kolkata airport and 35 non-metro airports is underway as planned.

Share of Rajasthan in profit from petroleum products

†*215. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Rajasthan where the work of exploration and production of petroleum products likely to be started along with the details thereof; and

(b) the quantum of share for the State ensured by Central Government out of the profit earned from the production of petroleum products in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Hydrocarbon exploration operations are being carried out in the districts of Rajasthan namely, Barmer, Baran, Bikaner, Bundi, Bhilwara, Chum, Chittaurgarh, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Jodhpur and Kota. Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are producing natural gas at the rate of 7.5 lakhs cubic metres per day from Jaisalmer basin in Rajasthan. Natural gas produced by OIL and ONGC is being supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited through the gas pipeline of GAIL (India) Limited. Crude oil production from Barmer basin, likely to peak at 6-7 million metric tonne per annum, is to commence (by Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd.) in the second half of 2009.

Royalty is payable to the State Government for crude oil and natural gas production in the State. For offshore areas, royalty is payable to the Central Government only. The State Government receives royalty in the range of 12.5% to 20% of well head price on crude oil production for the blocks awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and nomination regimes. The royalty rate on natural gas production is 10% of well head price. Under the NELP, Government will receive profit petroleum in addition to royalty on crude oil and natural gas production, once production commences. For the blocks awarded under NELP, 50% share of profit petroleum is to be shared with the State Governments, as recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission. The State Government shall also benefit to the extent of taxes and duties levied by the State Government on sale of crude oil and natural gas production.

International crude prices *vis-a-vis* domestic petrol price

†*216. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of crude in the international market had come down to 45.50 Dollar per Barrel in the past few days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price of crude oil in the international market at the time when the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas were last increased in the past months in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi